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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Naoto NAKAHARA

Group Art Unit : 2851

Appl. No. : 10/815,704

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : April 2, 2004

Confirmation No. : 9722

For : PASSIVE AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM FOR A CAMERA

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-43605, which was published on February 14, 1995, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,597,999 to KINBA et al., which issued on January 28, 1997. Applicant notes that the Japanese patent document is discussed on page 4 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-141984, which was published on May 25, 2001, together with an English language Abstract and English language translation of the same. Applicant notes that this document is discussed on pages 3 and 4 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-210042, which was published on August 20, 1993, together with an English language Abstract and English language

translation of the same. Applicant notes that this document is discussed on pages 3 and 4 of the specification of the present application;

U.S. Patent No. 6,181,378 to HORIE et al., which issued on January 30, 2001;
and

U.S. Patent No. 6,178,295 to NAKATA et al., which issued on January 23, 2001.

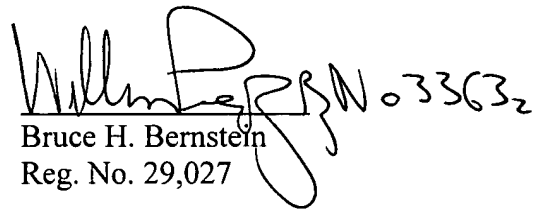
Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, as well as the noted English language abstracts and translations, are attached hereto and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naoto NAKAHARA


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July 2, 2004
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Application No.
10/815,704

Group
2851

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.